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Re: Response to Final Office Action dated March 27, 2002  
Serial No. 09/460,552  
Filed: December 14, 1999

Attached:

RCE Transmittal (1 page)  
Response (8 pages)  
Drawings (2 pages - formals being sent separately)

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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/460,552
Filing Date	12/14/99
First Named Inventor	Dean, Jr. et al.
Group Art Unit	2872
Examiner Name	Amari, A.
Attorney Docket Number	HE0083

#7  
Req for  
RCE  
J. McNickle

6/29/02

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a.  Previously submitted
  - i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
  - ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
  - iii.  Other
- b.  Enclosed
  - i.  Amendment/Reply
  - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
  - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
  - iv.  Other

**2. Miscellaneous**

- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b.  Other

**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.
  - i.  RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
  - ii.  Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
  - iii.  Other
- b.  Check in the amount of \$ enclosed.
- c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Timothy J. Aberle		
Signature	<i>Timothy J. Aberle</i>		
Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,383		
Date	Jun 27, 2002		

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	Patricia L. Mesuch	Date	6/27/02
Signature	<i>Patricia L. Mesuch</i>		

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*Patricia J. Mesuch*  
Patricia L. Mesuch

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Date of Signature

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Anny draft  
and

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. HE0083

J. McMillan

6/29/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Dean, Jr. et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/460,552 ) Group Art Unit: 2872  
Filed: 12/14/99 ) Examiner: Amari, A.  
For: A FERRULE HAVING FIRST AND SECOND BODY PORTIONS WITH  
DIFFERENT NOMINAL WIDTHS AND AN ASSOCIATED MOLD AND  
FABRICATION METHOD

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BOX FEE AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

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RESPONSE

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action dated March 27, 2002. This response is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

In the Claims

Sub  
B1  
A1  
1. (amended) A ferrule comprising:  
at least one optical fiber bore associated with a front surface and a rear surface of said ferrule;  
first and second body portions extending at least partially between said surfaces and having respective widths, a juncture of said body portions comprising an interface in the form of a parting line, said parting line and said optical fiber bore extending longitudinally at least partially between said front surface and said rear surface, and said parting line defining an offset of at least about 50 microns.